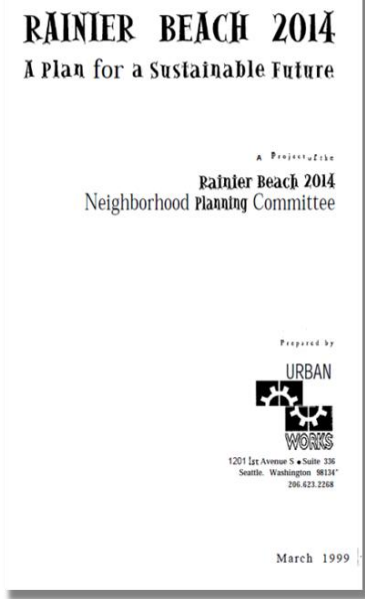


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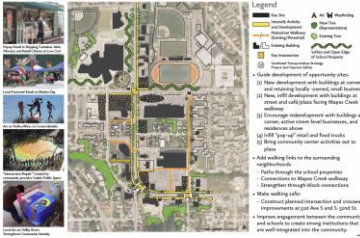
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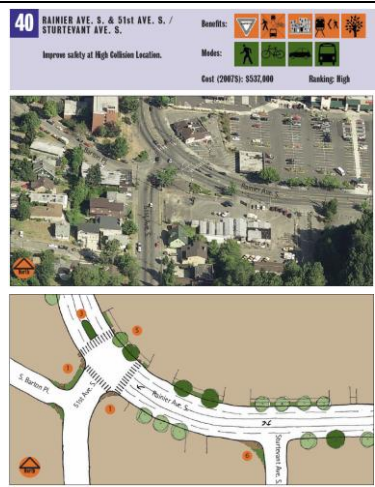
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TABLE OF CONTENTS	
I. INTRODUCTION & BACKGROUND	
A. Executive Summary	
<p><i>NPU Purpose/Scope</i></p> <p>In the late 1990s, people in Rainier Beach worked together to create <i>Rainier Beach 2014: A Plan for a Sustainable Future</i>. Since that time, the Rainier Beach area has experienced change, including: the opening of light rail; reconstruction of the Rainier Beach K-8 school and library addition; Mapes Creek Walkway improvements; and investments in Kubota Garden. Overall, community members have feelings of both pride and concern about Rainier Beach. They pointed out that there have been some positive changes resulting from these investments. People noticed more families are buying homes and taking care of them, and that there are good neighbors and strong community activism. However, many expressed disappointment about the continued presence of crime along S Henderson St. and around the light rail station. The overall vitality of the business district is less than the community desires. There was a strong desire that it be easier to get to the light rail by improving bus connections and providing parking at the station. Many felt that it was time to assess the strengths of the original plan, affirm goals that are still relevant, and identify new goals where appropriate.</p> <p>In 2010, the City initiated a plan update for Rainier Beach. This plan update articulates the community's key priorities so that the City, developers and neighborhood residents can all work together to seek funding and realize transformative change that will bring Rainier Beach toward our shared neighborhood vision.</p>	<p>Urban Village Strategy</p> <p>In the 1990s, people from 38 neighborhoods across the city created a 20-year vision for how each of their neighborhoods would grow. This work was done as part of the Seattle Comprehensive Plan initiative, a citywide effort that sought to "preserve the best quality of Seattle's distinct neighborhoods while responding positively and creatively to the pressures of change and growth." Neighborhood Plans developed strategies to ensure that the expected growth was informed by both City expertise and local knowledge and priority-setting.</p> <p>In the decade that followed there have been significant changes in Seattle's neighborhoods, including growth in housing and major investments in infrastructure and amenities. The population of the city also greatly diversified. In 2008, the Mayor and City Council recognized the need to consider updating the plans through broad and inclusive discussions with the community, including new strategies for engagement.</p> <p>1999 RB Plan Goals (Link):</p> <p>Goals, Policies & Strategies</p> <p>The updated Goals and Policies will be incorporated into the City's Comprehensive Plan (see appendix). The plan update also creates a shared work plan for the community and City. The strategies and actions will be incorporated in a living document that defines shared priorities and responsibilities for next steps (see <i>Appendix</i>).</p>
B. Vision	

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<p><i>Rainier Beach 2014: A Plan for a Sustainable Future</i> contained the following vision.</p> <p>“The Rainier Beach community wants to become a pleasant and safe neighborhood. Bringing this about is our challenge and responsibility. The attributes of our area, its diversity and natural beauty, need to be sustained. By setting forth a positive resident and business-friendly image, we can create an enjoyable, affordable, and prosperous community.”</p> <p>“ The community envisions a future where Rainier Beach will have an innovative, connected learning system that supports the integration of education into community life at all levels, and for all residents, resulting in the empowerment of the residents and the attainment of sustainable and beneficial changes in the community.”</p> <p>Through the update, the community identified broader vision based in the shared value of strong, diverse communities, healthy people and families, and great places.</p> <p><i>Rainier Beach is rich with cultural and physical resources. It has a thriving and interconnected community that contains diverse households. It is supported by strong social and cultural institutions and services that provide stability during changing times. The neighborhood provides access to resources necessary for people to live a healthful life. The neighborhood’s parks, opens spaces, roads, and other physical elements are healthy and provides for a healthy community.</i></p>	 <p>Rainier Beach Key Strategies 1999</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Henderson Street: Building a Better Boulevard: Revitalize the street by connecting the community's commercial and civic core at South Henderson Street & Rainier Avenue South to the light rail station at South Henderson Street & MLK Jr. Way South. • "Beach Square:" Commercial Core Revitalization: Rejuvenate the commercial shopping center of Rainier Beach by completing transportation, economic development, land use, and streetscape improvements. • Community Education: The Building Block of the Future: Promote education as a means of improving the present and future for Rainier Beach's youth, adults, and seniors.
C. Priorities for the Update	
<p>By focusing on the following areas and undertaking these priority strategies the City and community can together realize transformative change that will bring Rainier Beach toward our shared vision.</p> <p>It is important to the community that work on these priorities should break down silos, in order to reflect the linkages between people and places, and therefore between the projects we undertake.</p>	
<p>Strong Community</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop an inclusive, effective organization that brings the neighborhood together to 	<p>Healthy People and Families</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement the Rainier Beach Urban Farm and Wetland project and forge strong links to the entire <p>Great Places</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stimulate development in each of the community nodes (Pearls) that provides jobs,

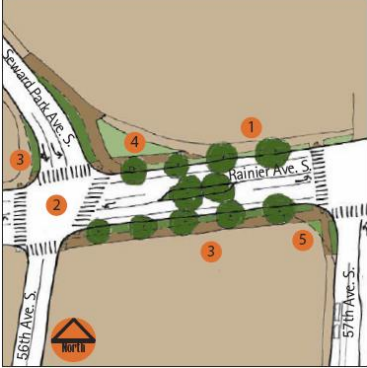
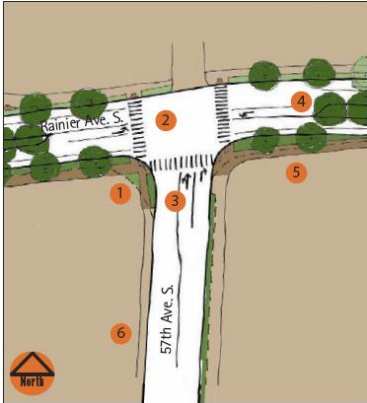


Section		Side Bar and/or Graphics
<p>implement its plan.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create a multicultural center to strengthen the existing culturally and ethnically diverse communities by providing space for individual and cross-cultural events. 	<p>community.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve public safety, primarily in the Rainier Ave. S / S Henderson St. area, though a focused and comprehensive effort. • Make the schools a successful and shared community asset. 	<p>housing and community business.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create a streetscape plan for art, wayfinding, touchstones, kiosks etc, so these elements are included in street projects • Extend #7 trolley to station and relocate layover
D. Engaging the Community		
<p>During the update new neighbors and new voices joined those who participated twelve years ago. Together, a broad cross-section of community members discussed what they value in the neighborhood and outlined their shared goals and ideas about how to achieve those goals.</p> <p>Throughout the plan update process, workshops and meetings were structured to engage community discussion and guidance, followed by reporting back, all of which informed the drafting and finalizing of recommendations. Together, the broad engagement and the detailed recording of community comments throughout the process created the ongoing transparency that underlies this update.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Phase 1: Neighbors and community organizations kicked-off the update with a series of issue Identification workshops. They described how they live, work and play in their neighborhood, what makes it unique, what they value and how they see it changing. Planning Outreach Liaisons (POLs) extended this conversation into their respective communities where they identified what they value now, and what is needed to support a healthy and vital neighborhood. • Phase 2: Neighbors and City staff worked together at a workshop to dig deeper into the issues and priorities that emerged during Phase 1. Through an open house with a series of stations reflecting these priorities, the community outlined preliminary strategies for enhancing community organizations, health, and the physical environment that supports these. The POLs again replicated the exercises; working with their communities. • Phase 3: Community members attended an open house to review the proposed goals and strategies that grew from the values, issues and opportunities voiced by the community throughout the preceding months. The POLs encouraged their communities to attend this workshop in order to bring all the voices together for this important review. • Phase 4: The final workshop was designed to increase awareness about the update, to prioritize the shared work to implement the recommendations, and to create 		<p>NAC</p> <p>The City convened the RB Neighborhood Advisory Committee (NAC), a representative group of community members who are passionate about their community and understand the importance of engaging others in the neighborhood planning process. The NAC worked with City staff to assess and address those conditions that have changed since the 1999 Plan, to engage the wider community, review their input, and help form recommendations that balance all community interests.</p> <p>Cheryl dos-Remedios Christie Coxley David Sauvion Gregory Davis Guyanthony Parramore Harry Hoff man Katy Curtis Margaret Yellowwolf Mohamed Sheikh Hassan Peter Masundire Rodolfo Castillo Vallerie Fisher Robert West "Trey"</p> <p>Planning Outreach Liaisons (POLs)</p> <p>Reaching a broad range of those who live and work in Rainier Beach, including those who have been historically underrepresented in the planning process, was a primary objective of the update. Bicultural and/or bilingual POLs connected with the traditionally underrepresented Oromo (Afan Oromo), African-American, Ethiopian (Amharic), Hispanic/Latino, Laotian, Somali, Filipino (Tagalog), apartment-based, elderly, and youth communities. This intensive effort helps to build relationships with those who were new to the planning discussion, and to provide sufficient background information to help them participate effectively.</p> <p>Community-wide Events</p> <p>During each phase of panning, the city convened community-wide events that</p>

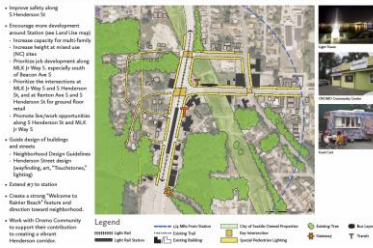
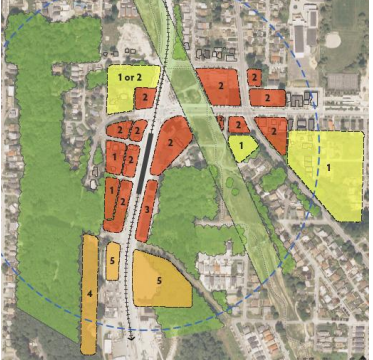
Section	Side Bar and/or Graphics
community/City action teams to start making the priorities a reality.	<p>provided opportunities for groups to come together, to develop and review the plan recommendations.</p> <p>Pictures from events</p>
<p>Healthy Living Assessment</p> <p>Research has shown that our neighborhoods can have clear impacts on our health; potentially resulting in increased incidents of obesity, diabetes, and reduced life expectancy. The City received a Public Health Seattle King County "Communities Putting Prevention to Work" grant to incorporate health into neighborhood planning through applying a Healthy Living Assessment (HLA) framework. The framework helps to uncover findings and translate them into actions that may improve community health. Through this work, three pillars of healthy communities emerged:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strong Communities & Organizations: A thriving and interconnected community that contains diverse households, supported by strong social and cultural institutions and services • Healthy People & Families: A neighborhood that provides access to resources necessary to live a healthful life • Great Places: A natural and built environment that is healthy and provides for a healthy community 	<p>The HLA included three data gathering tools that use to identify health assets and health gaps in Rainier Beach. These tools include sixteen health indicators, a neighborhood questionnaire, and a set of community discussion questions. The HLA helped to identify where infrastructure improvements, community initiatives, or City incentives can improve the health of the community, and the health-promoting assets of the community for preservation or strengthening. It consisted of three primary elements: key health indicators that can be used to track health over time; a neighborhood survey that collected information about elements that shape the health of Rainier Beach; and community discussions that informed and gathered information about the community's health.</p> <p>Examples of health indicators</p>
II. INITIATIVES & STRATEGIES	
This section of the Update elaborates on the vision, defining as specific steps the community and City can do to preserve, enhance and improve the day-to-day life of community members. It describes overarching goals to ensure that these ends guide our actions.	
A. Great Places that Support our Community	
1. Pearls	
<p>Discussion</p> <p>During the first meeting community members were asked, "Where do you go to shop, socialize or attend religious or cultural</p>	


Section	Side Bar and/or Graphics
<p>gatherings?” Responses pointed to the reality that “Rainier Beach” was a collection of places. While encompassing several locations, some with strong cultural identity, it was the sum of these places that people felt was the “Town Center.”</p> <p>This section defines the broad roles and objectives for each place and identifies strategies for <u>strengthening them as distinct but linked parts of one neighborhood</u>. Although the strategies focus on the physical aspects, they should not be separated from the human aspects. The importance of these places derives from meaning they have for people and community.</p> <p>By employing a place-based approach that focuses and coordinates individual strategies for specific locations, with specific outcomes in mind, we can <u>leverage each effort – no matter how small – to have greater impact</u>. This requires that managers of larger projects consult with the community and coordinate with other departments early in a project’s development to understand the project’s context and create a holistic scope of work. The community can then identify their relevant objectives, and departments can seek funding for related work.</p>	
<p>Goals</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For Rainier Beach the “town center” is an interconnected and vibrant set of places where the community comes together. These places reflect the diverse cultures, histories and traditions that collectively give Rainier Beach its identity. 	
<p>a. Beach Square</p>	
<p>Roles & Objectives</p> <p>Beach Square is the primary commercial center and civic core of Rainier Beach. It is the location of businesses, schools, a community center and a library that support and bring together our community. As with the 1999 plan, these recommendations address economic development, transportation, streetscape, pedestrian connections, housing, and land use issues. The main objectives are to increase neighborhood vitality, address safety, and enhance connections.</p>	<p>Beach Square The focus of business, institutions, and residents, the primary “center” of Rainier Beach.</p> 
<p>Strategies</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with Bank of America to redevelop their site on the SW corner of Rainier Ave. S and S Henderson St. into a mixed-use building with residences above ground floor businesses. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with Saars and Payless Shoes to add complementary “pop-up” or food carts in their parking lots in order to add activity at the street corners. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tailor economic development approaches to build on the strengths of existing businesses (Saars, Safeway/Payless 	

Section	Side Bar and/or Graphics
Shoes, Bank of America) that are examples of anchor tenants in traditional neighborhood business centers.	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Extend the #7 trolley to the light rail transit station and relocate associated bus layover from in front of Saars to the station area (see Station Area recommendations. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Knit together the businesses, schools, community center and library by reducing the amount of paving and adding more active uses/activities along the sidewalks. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Program the plaza in front of the community center, prioritizing youth and other performances and activities that will draw families to the plaza. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote positive activities on S Henderson St. – e.g., the fire fighters’ fundraising campaign for Jerry’s Kids – to make the streets friendly and safe, and to create a fun energy everyone wants to experience. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implement the Transit Master Plan recommendation to install Transit Signal Priority at the intersection of S Henderson St. and Rainier Ave. S. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implement the SETS recommendation # 40 to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Narrow the southbound lane of 51st and reduce the curb radius on the southeast corner. Improve signalization. Construct a median island to improve pedestrian safety. Work with property owners to consolidate driveways. Add street trees and planting strips where feasible. Reduce curb radius on the southwest corner of Sturtevant Ave S. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> When implementing the Bicycle Master Plan, add a specific route connecting Seward Park Ave. S to Pritchard Beach. This could be a “sharrows” along S Cloverdale St. or as part of the planned path through the former Atlantic Street Nursery site. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with Seattle Public Schools to provide direct and safe walking and biking routes through sites, linking to adjacent streets. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improve access to the waterfront by connecting Beer Sheva to the Atlantic City Nursery site and Pritchard Beach (existing 	



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Section	Side Bar and/or Graphics
	 <p>43 RAINIER AVE. S. & 57TH AVE. S.</p> <p>Benefits: Improve safety of intersection.</p> <p>Modes: [Icons for various modes]</p> <p>Cost (2007\$): \$408,700 Ranking: High</p>  <p>15 57TH AVE. S. & S. FLETCHER ST.</p> <p>Benefits: Improve safety and calm traffic at intersection.</p> <p>Modes: [Icons for various modes]</p> <p>Cost (2007\$): \$146,400 Ranking: Long-term</p> <div data-bbox="1052 1192 1403 1381">   </div> <p>Existing</p> <p>57th Ave. S. is a collector arterial street serving the local residents as well as a Metro trolley. Waters Ave. S. merges into 57th and then intersects with Rainier Ave. S. The street geometry is skewed and due to grade changes the sight distances are limited. There is a small commercial area between S. Fletcher St. and Rainier with parking and pedestrian needs.</p> <p>Proposed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Convert 57th to one-way southbound. Reconfigure Fletcher at Waters Ave. S. to a right angle to slow motorists turning right (southbound) from Fletcher and to improve pedestrian safety.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In implementing the Bicycle Master Plan, add bike lanes to Seward Ave. S as it approaches Rainier Ave. S since cars tend to squeeze out the bicycles in this intersection. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improve access to the waterfront by improving public access to the Parks shoreline parcels located southeast of the Water's Edge Apartments. 	
c. Station Area	

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<p>Roles & Objectives</p> <p>The Rainier Beach light rail station area is a major gateway to this neighborhood. Unfortunately there has been no development since the plan was adopted in 1999 and zoning was changed to encourage mixed use development.</p> <p>The objectives of the following strategies are to create safer and more attractive station area as well as connections to the neighborhood, to encourage substantial residential and mixed use development immediately surrounding the station and along S Henderson St., and to leverage its attribute of access to support growth in job-creating businesses.</p>	<p>Station Area Major destination needing to be safe, more vibrant and better connected.</p> 
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tailor economic development approaches to focus on attracting job-producing business and recruiting a range of local convenience businesses appropriate to the station area. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Amend development regulations to enable higher density residential and mixed-use development within ¼ to ½ mile of the light rail transit station. The objectives are to: encourage development that is beneficial for the community by create employment opportunities; include affordable housing; and creating a destination “entry” to Rainier Beach. Ideas of desired development include: apartments; community college; incubator businesses potentially linked to the Urban Farm; and live/work spaces. <p>The following zoning changes should be explored:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Consider changing future land use map and zoning to MF (e.g. L-3) to encourage more infill development near station and Beach Square, and to increase consistency of zoning. Consider transitions to existing SF development. Include appropriate areas in Station Area overlay. Consider increasing height limits within the Neighborhood Commercial (NC) zones to increase residential density. Consider changes to promote more multifamily and/or live work in proximity to the station. Consider allowing higher residential densities on areas not affected by steep slopes. Work with Sound Transit to prioritize employment and housing development when these sites are made surplus. Protect steep hillside potentially preserving as open space. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage development or redevelopment to achieve the envisioned high-quality, dense residential building along S Henderson St. Consider regulatory changes that would support 	



Section	Side Bar and/or Graphics
live/work and home occupation to add vitality and economic opportunity.	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote development of “incubator” spaces for small start-up businesses, especially in the area south of the light rail station, such as a food production facility that could coordinate with the Rainier Beach Urban Farm at the former Atlantic City Nursery site. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with the Oromo community to support their center and contribution to creating a vital S Henderson St. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Periodically assess changes in the development market and character of area. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implement Transit Master Plan recommendations to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Extend the #7 trolley to the light rail transit station. S Henderson St. is a priority upgrade to frequent service (The Frequent Transit Network). Implement comprehensive station access and wayfinding program to improve visibility of station, improve intermodal connections, and increase legibility of pedestrian and bicycle approaches to stations. Create a layover for four (4) buses to accommodate the extended #7 service adjacent to the light rail transit station (thereby reducing bus layover in front of Saars). Configure a turn-around for trolley at the light rail station area. Install Transit Signal Priority at the intersection of S Henderson St. and Rainier Ave. S. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In implementing the Bicycle Master Plan, assure that bike facilities near the light rail station area offer the most protection feasible – ideally continuing the bike lanes or a separated bikeway. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Create a strong “Welcome to Rainier Beach” feature and direction toward neighborhood. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improve the quality of street tree pruning to ensure healthy, attractive trees (as well as meet SCL and transit safety needs). 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explore partnerships with private property owners to use existing off-street parking lots to meet parking needs, including light rail use. 	
d. Rose Street	
Roles & Objectives This area has the potential to stand out as a community node along Rainier Ave. S, where inconsistent development has occurred in the past. The S. Rose St. area is a growing	




Section	Side Bar and/or Graphics
<p>concentration of diverse cultures, businesses and organizations. The Housing Resource Group development, the Ethiopian Community Center and the Buddha Jewel monastery are emblematic of the potential social vitality of this area.</p> <p>The plan strives to build on recent development, the planned SETS project and growing East African businesses to continue momentum toward establishing this area as a defined community node.</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tailor economic development approaches to build on this growing destination for East Africans by supporting businesses to expand the range of goods and by adding related businesses. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement the Southeast Transportation Strategy (SETS). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ SETS Project 36: Engage the surrounding business and associated communities to design this space. Consider incorporating art, lighting, benches, etc. to create an environment that knits together the businesses. Evaluate additional curb space created by the SETS project to increase on-street parking for adjacent businesses. ○ SETS Project 37: Consider adding a crosswalk on Rainier Ave. S at S Thistle St. 	<div data-bbox="1052 722 1421 997"> <p>36 RAINIER AVE. S. & S. ROSE ST. / WABASH AVE. S.</p> <p>Benefits: </p> <p>Improve safety at intersection.</p> <p>Modes: </p> <p>Cost (2007\$): \$1,818,000</p> <p>Ranking: Medium</p> </div> <div data-bbox="1052 1008 1421 1283"> <p>37 RAINIER AVE. S. & S. THISTLE ST. / RAINIER PL. S.</p> <p>Benefits: </p> <p>Improve safety at intersection.</p> <p>Modes: </p> <p>Cost (2007\$): \$154,000</p> <p>Ranking: Long-term</p> </div>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Connect residents to parks and open space: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Improve access to the waterfront by improving public access to Pritchard Beach ○ Seek opportunities, including partnerships, to create a playground ○ Explore opportunities to connect businesses and people to the Urban Farm. 	
2. Overall Land Use and Urban Design	
<p>Discussion</p> <p>This section addresses overall zoning issues and an approach to urban design consistent with the future envisioned by the community for Rainier Beach. The recommendations support an emerging pattern of land use that is focused on more mixed-use development in the Pearls and reflective of the historic, economic and cultural influences that define Rainier Beach.</p>	
Goals	

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RB-G1 A diverse and vibrant neighborhood composed of pedestrian-friendly, transit-connected business districts and affordable and attractive residential areas.	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Create neighborhood design guidelines and use Design Review to assure that redevelopment contributes toward the desired future design character of Rainier Beach. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Address particular design intents for each Pearl as part of the neighborhood design guidelines. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review zoning in the City and elsewhere to identify opportunities or hindrances to small businesses (such as in-home business requirements). 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Within all Pearls, develop coordinated plans for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wayfinding, information kiosks, Touchstones and art Streetscape elements - crosswalk markings, lighting fixture style and quality of illumination (warm white light source like induction fluorescent), and bus shelter design 	 
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with departments to identify and coordinate underfunded efforts with planned capital projects in order to leverage City investments and create transformative place-making changes. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) and budget process to identify projects that can act as catalysts for coordinating and implementing several related recommendations at one time. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Look beyond the 6-year CIP horizon for opportunities to leverage planned, but unfunded, projects. 	

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fund full implementation of the "Touchstones" project; a series of artistic carved stones that contain QR Codes allowing for easily updated information sharing. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Create a network of community kiosks, located within each of the "Pearls" where community members can post events and information. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improve the physical (public & private spaces) and social connections between the smaller centers of activity (schools, library, community center, grocery stores, ethnic markets & Pearls). 	
3. Equitable Economic Development	
<p>Discussion</p> <p>This section addresses the need to support small, local businesses that provide goods and services for Rainier Beach's diverse population, including immigrants, youth, elderly and ethnic groups that reside in or visit the area. Develop a local economy appropriate for neighborhood income levels and also attracts clientele from outside of the area. Improve the business district's physical environment to make it safer and attractive for all customers. There is a need for youth employment that aligns with educational opportunities and where teens could be mentored by business leaders. Innovative approaches to economic development are needed in a neighborhood with unique business opportunities being created by immigrant and ethnic entrepreneurs.</p>	
<p>Goals</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A strong local economy for Rainier Beach. A revitalized commercial business core that attracts the patronage of local and citywide residents and employees through an attractive, safe, and clean built environment. Strong entrepreneurship that creates job and grows the local economy Sustainable wealth creation that provides individuals and families with the tools for: managing their money; making sound financial decisions; and building wealth. 	
Strategies	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase the range of retail establishments, particularly local shops and restaurants. 	<p>The presence of everyday retail destinations accessible by walking increases physical activity. Retail development in a mixed-use neighborhood also generates natural public surveillance or "eyes on the street" which reduces crime and improves residents' feelings of safety. A broad range of goods available in the neighborhood allows residents to meet their needs locally, reducing travel, building social cohesion, and keeping money circulating within the</p>

Section	Side Bar and/or Graphics
	neighborhood.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Offer technical assistance and education about financial assistance to businesses adjacent to City projects such as the Community Center and R.O.W. improvements in order to maximize the positive outcome of City investments. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with the Office of Economic Development (OED) and the Rainier Valley Community Development Fund to better tailor grants to minority, immigrant and family-owned businesses. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop public/private partnerships to support new business development. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify measures, such as grants and programs, to support small business development and employment opportunities. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage new and existing models of financing mixed-use development projects that provide long-term affordable commercial space, as well as affordable housing, in City-funded (and Sound Transit?) mixed-use projects. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assist the Rainier Beach Community Empowerment Coalition (RBCEC) with their efforts to revitalize the business community, build self-sufficiency by educating residents and business owners about worker supports, and build on traditional anti-poverty programs by helping low income families achieve greater economic security and stability through asset development programs and services. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify strategies for employing more youth in Rainier Beach. 	
B. Linkages	
<p>Discussion</p> <p>This section addresses the ways to improve the physical links between places and people, and make a neighborhood and community. While much of Rainier Beach has good streets and sidewalks, there are significant gaps including the large, fenced blocks of land occupied by schools, Safeway and Lake Washington Apartments. Additionally, S Henderson St. and Rainier Ave. S between the Safeway and S 57th St. need improvements to be safe and attractive.</p>	<p>Physical & Community Linkages: Recommendations The ways people and places are connected that make Rainier Beach a community.</p>
<p>Goals</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Integrated transportation improvements that serve the community. 	
<p>Strategies</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> When prioritizing projects, consider the concepts illustrated in the Linkages and Pearl diagrams that would enhance safety and improve the physical and emotional linkages to the Pearls (i.e., sense of ownership or identification with connections between the places where the community gathers and shops). 	


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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complete the improvements defined in <i>Gateway to Rainier Valley at Rainier Beach: Creating a pedestrian-friendly and vibrant business district in south Rainier Valley.</i> 	<p>Gateway to Rainier Valley at Rainier Beach Creating a pedestrian friendly and vibrant business district in South Rainier Valley.</p> 
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improve the S Henderson St. corridor to function as a safe and attractive boulevard linking the Rainier Beach light rail station, Beach Square and Lake Washington. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop signature lighting system for safety, identity, to link the Lake and Rail Station & key destinations. Include major features (visible day and night) at MLK and at Beer Sheva Park that are visible from opposite ends, and create a sense of destination. Locate intensified lighting along the south side of the street, and include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Distinctive elements at key crossings, destinations and walkways. Frequent soft lighting to create a continuous soft glow while managing glare Superblocks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Create E/W, N/S safe walkways through superblocks (creating blocks similar to elsewhere in Rainier Beach) Create signature physical gateways with consistent design Beer Sheva Park <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Open entrance of Beer Sheva Park to create views to the Lake by re-landscaping Consider revisions to parking and landscaping to open up views to park and lake, while protecting habitat. Seek opportunities to improve access to swimming Construct safe walking path to Atlantic City Urban Farm Activity Areas <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Create activity and visual interest at key intersections and linkages (see Beach Square and Station Area recommendations) Encourage retail/shops/restaurants in isolated areas between activity areas 	<p>Henderson Corridor Create a safe, distinctive walking corridor.</p> 
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implement the Southeast Transportation Strategy (SETS). <u>Overall Considerations for SETS projects</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Distinctive crosswalk paving and lighting should be incorporated to create the sense of being in a special place, 	

Section	Side Bar and/or Graphics
<p>reinforce that slower speeds are expected, and that the Urban Village is a safe place for pedestrians and bicyclists.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Use additional area created by intersection re-alignments as locations for public art. ○ Incorporate “Touchstones” into SETS projects. 	 <p>Note: Refer to Section 4, Project Descriptions, for details about each numbered project.</p> <p>Figure 19: Rainier Ave. S. Projects; S. Alaska St. to City Limits</p>  <p>Figure 13: Rainier Beach Urban Village and Rainier Ave. S. Projects</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordinate planned or funded transportation improvements, economic development and/or public safety initiatives with other activities recommended for that place to maximize the impact of each effort at improving the area. An example would be coordinating and leveraging development, transportation improvements, public art and business assistance around the intersection of S Rose St. and Rainier Ave. S. 	<p>Use “Walk Score” as a relative indicator of walk-ability in Rainier Beach, increasing it from its current level of a 46 – 69 to an 85 that’s typical of Wallingford or Fremont.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seek dedicated funds to enable SDOT to coordinate with and respond to adjacent development projects, thereby increasing the contribution of ROW improvement projects to “place-making.” An example of this would be implementing SETS project 36 (Rainier Ave. S & S Rose St. /Wabash Ave. S) to continue the momentum created by development of the Rose St. Apartments constructed by the Housing Resources Group. 	 <p>Proposed</p> <p>From a traffic perspective, the roundabout provides the best reduction in the number and severity of collisions for this High Collision Location. In addition, it creates a safer environment for pedestrians and provides the best level of service for vehicles. The roundabout also creates an environmental benefit by reducing greenhouse gases and creating more pervious surface for natural drainage features and landscaping. The roundabout has the potential to create a gateway for the Rainier Beach Community.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support Feet First’s work with the National Parks Service to create a walking map for Rainier Beach. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Use the map and walking ambassadors to increase awareness and advocacy for improvements needed to make Rainier Beach a walkable neighborhood. ○ Implement the Touchstones project and link with the Feet First walking map for Rainier Beach. 	


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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase access through South Shore k-8, Rainier Beach Playfield, Rainier Beach High School and between Beer Sheva and Pritchard Beach sites in the center of the community. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve safe driving habits that respect pedestrians, transit and bicyclists. Activities could include neighborhood “speed watch”, as well as presentations and literature made available at teen activities, Rainier Beach events, churches, ESL classes, etc. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement the Pedestrian Master Plan (PMP) Tier 1 & 2 sidewalk and crossing projects within the Urban Village. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Ensure the sidewalk network within the triangle created by Renton Ave. S, S Henderson St., and Rainier Ave. S is completed as parcels develop within that area. ○ Further prioritize PMP projects that support the linkages illustrated in the Linkages Diagram 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When implementing the Bicycle Master Plan, make Rainier Beach bike friendly by taking extra effort to increase safety, since this community does not yet have a strong “bike culture.” 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement the Transit Master Plan recommendation to reduce the number, or eliminate the need, of transfers to get to the light rail train station or downtown Seattle. 	<p>Research has shown that people who live closer to a transit stop are more likely to use transit for their commutes. Many people who use transit to get to work also get daily physical activity from the walk to and from transit. For the elderly and the disabled, access to public transit decreases barriers to participation in community and civic life and can decrease feelings of depression and alienation. Transit provides access to jobs, stores, cultural centers, and services in other parts of the city.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seek ways to reduce the costs to residents of the Restricted Parking Zone (RPZ) such as making increasing awareness of reduced rate for low-income households or using monitoring of parking to determine if amending an RPZ is possible. 	
C. Strong People and Community	
<p>Discussion</p> <p>The number one positive thing that people identified and want to preserve is Rainier Beach’s diversity. While this is one of the community’s strengths there is much work to be done with strengthening the community’s capacity to accomplish larger projects such as a multi-cultural center, creating a recognizable and positive neighborhood identity and finding ways to help the neighborhood’s youth to have educational and job opportunities they can grow with. Rainier Beach also has much creative potential to involve its local artists and youth in making art that The following four subsections provide detailed strategies to address these opportunities and challenges.</p>	

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1. Community Capacity	
<p>Discussion</p> <p>Existing neighborhood organizations and spiritual/religious groups have done significant work on behalf of the community in organizing their members, addressing issues and sharing information. They will be instrumental in implementing this plan as well as other community initiated projects. However, it may time to assess the community's capacity to manage larger projects and pursue fundraising. Support from the City and elsewhere is often needed for community projects to be realized. Small and large efforts will each need to engage Rainier Beach's community members and groups.</p>	
<p>Goals</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community-based implementation of update recommendations and other community projects. • Neighborhood spaces that reflect Rainier Beach's many cultures. 	
Strategies	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct a feasibility analysis for developing a multi-cultural center in Rainier Beach (potentially separate from the Rainier Beach Community Center) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Develop a preliminary design program for the center, outlining considerations such as: functions, uses/activities, space needs, and design qualities. ○ Work with existing organizations and minority and immigrant communities to assess and build capacity. ○ Consider partnering with Seattle Parks & Recreation at the new Rainier Beach Community Center. ○ Include immigrant/minority businesses and organizations. ○ Develop a design concept for a multi-cultural center. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Actively engage Rainier Beach community members and organizations in implementation of the plan update through means such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Public Outreach Liaisons (POLs) ○ Providing early notification of projects and schedules ○ Identifying host" organizations to spearhead community input. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support the work of the Rainier Beach Community Empowerment Coalition to connect people to organizations that are currently working on issues. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Convene regular meetings of the community's religious/spiritual leaders to work together on shared community issues. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Undertake an assessment of the community capacity and 	

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organizational options to create a non-profit entity with the ability to implement large-scale community projects that include fundraising, programs like an art walk or music series, as well as development of capital projects like the envisioned multicultural center. The development of this entity should include the input of existing community organizations.	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seek public, foundation (non-profit), and private investment in areas critical to this community such as employment, education and housing. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage City departments to meet with community organizations early in a project or program to increase collaboration and linking with community-driven projects. 	
2. Community Identity	
Discussion "Diversity" was the most common description and positive aspect community members identified for Rainier Beach. Most wanted it to be what people thought of first about Rainier Beach. These recommendations offer ways to strengthen both individual contributing communities and cultures, as well as increase the contact and collaboration among them.	
Goals <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A positive identity for Rainier Beach based on its unique assets and strengths. 	
Strategies	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue efforts such as the "Lift Every Voice" campaign to celebrate the dreams and determination of the Rainier Beach neighborhood including activities such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Faces of Rainier Beach: Portraying the diversity of those who live, work, study, worship, and play in Rainier Beach through photographs and stories. Rapid Response Team: Actively responding to media misrepresentations and public misperceptions of the neighborhood through letters to the editor, and compiling fact sheets on progress in economic development, education, the environment, public safety, transportation, and family life (including the arts and culture). Living the Dream Map: Mapping out acts of social justice and community building across the neighborhood, drawing upon the Rainier Beach News Wire, local blogs and articles, and "crowd-sourced" reports. Help strengthen cross-organizational awareness of major events and activities to encourage coordination and mutual support. 	

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support the African American community while embracing immigrant communities. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish a “communications plan” between the City, Seattle Public Schools, community and newspapers in order to promote effective, positive communication. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with other Rainier Valley organizations to rotate hosting the Rainier Valley Heritage Festival so that it includes and occurs in Rainier Beach as well as other places. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with newspapers and on-line blogs to emphasize the positive activities (school events, arts and cultural celebrations) in Rainier Beach, and the contributions made by the different cultures. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support formation of a Rainier Beach African American business group or subcommittee of the Rainier Beach Merchant’s Association. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Feature ethnic and minority-owned businesses in Rainier Beach marketing programs. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implement programs and events that bring diverse elements of community together (e.g. cultural festival). Find appropriate ways to welcome different cultures into each others’ gatherings and celebrations, using web sites, kiosks, etc. 	
<h3>3. Youth and Schools</h3> <p>Discussion One cornerstone of the 1999 Rainier Beach plan was community education or life-long learning. The community envisioned that Rainier Beach would have “an innovative, connected learning system that supports the integration of education into community life at all levels, and for all residents, resulting in the empowerment of the residents and the attainment of sustainable and beneficial changes in the community.”</p> <p>During the update, residents spoke specifically about the importance of schools for their children, and the need to better integrate schools into community life. Community members are interested in finding ways to help the neighborhood’s youth to have educational and job opportunities they can grow with. There is also an interest in having lifelong learning opportunities available to all in the neighborhood to bring people together to learn new life and career skills.</p>	
<p>Goals</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Institutions and actions that support Rainier Beach youth. Strong schools with excellent programs and strong enrollment, producing exceptional students. 	


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Strategies	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with Seattle Public Schools to increase community use of school space throughout the year, such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ community college or extension classes ○ adult education, especially in coordination with teen ESL learning and tutoring ○ community meetings; ○ teen activities, etc. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bring more community members to athletic events and games scheduled at Rainier Beach High School and at the Rainier Beach Playfield through increasing family friendly activities, providing mobile food carts, etc. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Involve parents and youth (especially non-English speaking families) in multigenerational programs like ESL, tutoring and citizenship classes to bridge generations and reinforce the strength of these families. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support events like the Rainier Beach High School & Community Celebration and the RBCEC's Back to School Bash that bring together students, parents, teachers and community members to celebrate the achievement of Rainier Beach students. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support existing programs like the Rainier Beach Neighborhood Academy that connect neighbors through classes that enhance the quality of life for neighborhood children, teens, adults and seniors. A sampling of classes include: infant/child CPR; yoga; children's art classes; winter gardening; and cooking. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthen community involvement in and support of schools through means such as tutoring, fundraising, etc. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create partnerships to increase dedicated space and programming for youth and teens at the new Rainier Beach Community Center. Consider how the specific needs of youth in different cultural groups (e.g. African American, East African, Latino, Vietnamese, etc.) are met. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Build on the work of the Youth and Families Initiative, coordinating with its top priorities (Health, Neighborhood Safety, Race and Social Justice, Strong Neighborhoods, Youth Development, and Education). 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Design and implement a program like the "Harlem Children's Zone Project" to holistically approach building Rainier Beach community so that its children succeed in college and go on to the job market. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Employ more youth in Rainier Beach by creating mentorships 	


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with local businesses that teach leadership and entrepreneurship rather than continuing the “fast food employment” mentality.	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Include youth activities in community meetings, events and programs to increase opportunities to learn about youth concerns and to engage youth in the community. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expand tutoring opportunities, such as the Youth Tutoring Program at Lake Washington Apartments, potentially creating a tutoring center. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recruit staff, fluent in non-English languages used in the neighborhood, to lead youth programs. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with Parks to guide youth programming at the community center and at parks, such as Youth Leaders on the Field that will help Somali youth learn leadership skills through soccer. 	
4. Arts	
<p>Discussion</p> <p>There are many opportunities for art to express the different cultures of Rainier Beach. Public art by neighborhood artists and youth should be considered early in the design of physical projects funded by the City and other public agencies. Funding and other support are needed for neighborhood art events that bring community members together. All of the Pearls present unique opportunities for site specific art that reflects the community’s cultures and enhances neighborhood character.</p>	
<p>Goals</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arts and public art, in particular, are used to engage and express Rainier Beach’s cultural diversity. 	
<p>Strategies</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Integrate public art into projects wherever possible. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Involve the area’s youth and other community members in creating and integrating art at neighborhood locations. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support events such as a Rainier Beach Art walk that celebrate the best from each of the neighborhood’s respective cultures. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Define distinctive community expressions appropriate to each “Pearl” through public art that is relevant to the specific cultures (e.g., a youth and education focus at Beach Square). Look for alignment opportunities with Rainier Beach Merchant Association/SEED Gateway Project. 	
D. Housing	
<p>Discussion</p> <p>Housing in close proximity to light rail transit, public open space and commercial areas is increasingly desirable and therefore affordability</p>	

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can be disproportionately impacted in these areas. The strategies below suggest that we be proactive in creating partnerships to retain, and develop key properties near the Rainier Beach light rail station and other locations for housing affordable to all income levels in the neighborhood.	
Goals <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retain and develop affordable (low and moderate income) housing, especially where such housing is accessible to transit. 	
Strategies	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Partner with the Parks Department to provide Office of Housing funding to developers who wish to create affordable housing adjacent to newly acquired open space amenities. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assess City and other publically-owned parcels, especially those adjacent to the Rainier Beach light rail transit station, for their potential to facilitate low-income housing development. Consider, where possible, land sale or swap to facilitate residential development. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with Sound Transit to develop their surplus properties along the Rainier Valley light rail transit line as affordable housing and employment opportunities. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain access to affordable housing by improving access to programs supporting home ownership. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Use programs such as revolving loan funds and land trusts to keep owner-occupied housing affordable. ○ Use assistance programs to support homeowners who are low-income, senior or disabled. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a TOD property acquisition fund to provide affordable residential, commercial and community spaces using federal grant and local economic development funds in addition to the City's affordable housing funds. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain or create housing affordability for all income levels so as to build economic diversity in the neighborhood. 	
E. Public Safety	

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<p>Discussion</p> <p>Public safety is a major concern, especially for youth and teens. Because feelings of safety derive from a neighborhoods' overall wellbeing, they should be addressed from a holistic perspective that includes improvements to all areas of the neighborhood. These may include economic development, access to jobs, improvements in the shopping and walking environments, more activities at parks, community centers, and schools, a sense of opportunity, and a strengthening of the community fabric. While having increased police presence and responsiveness are important, more positive activity such as lively businesses and residences facing Rainier Ave. S and S Henderson St. can help to create greater safety. Improving community-police relationships will help to inform police of problem areas and build trust with diverse neighborhood constituencies.</p>	<p>In Rainier Beach, nearly every element of the community is affected by concerns for safety. Over half (57%) of residents who responded to the questionnaire felt safe walking around Rainier Beach during the day, with only 7% feeling safe at night. Over 1/3 of residents who responded (36%) never felt safe walking around the neighborhood. Rainier Beach had over four times the number of personal crime incidents with police involvement in 2010 compared to the city as a whole. This indicates that safety, in addition to perceived safety, is an important concern in Rainier Beach and plays a key role in limiting pedestrian activity in the neighborhood.</p>
<p>Goals</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A safe Rainier Beach 	
<p>Strategies</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve police presence and responsiveness to create a safe community. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide a safe environment for youth to grow and learn, and to have a good future and be productive citizens. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase the mix of uses and residential densities around the light rail transit station and along S Henderson St. to increase the number of people using public spaces, including sidewalks, thereby increasing "eyes on the street". 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote uses around transit facilities, such as businesses open into the evening hours and housing, to provide "eyes on the street." 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide more police presence around transit facilities until the time that the level of development provides sufficient activity to reduce the need for police presence. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement beautification projects, as illustrated in Pearls Diagrams, add better lighting, and remove overgrowth and other sidewalk obstructions. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with SPD to consider "hot spots" approach to crime prevention (at Rainier/Henderson), and increase police legitimacy in the eyes of community members. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enlist community members, including representatives from the various cultural and ethnic groups and youth, to participate in the Community Police Academy Program to educate the public on Seattle Police Department operations and to provide the Department with valuable feedback from the community. 	

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fund Crime Prevention and Community Policing programs like Living Room Conversations, to improve communication between SPD and community members. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conduct a series of SPD-sponsored Living Room Conversations with each of the diverse cultures present in Rainier Beach. Use translators as needed. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Secure Rainier Beach representation on each of the Seattle Police Department's Demographic Advisory Councils, and that these community representatives are supported to have regular meetings so they may share information and concerns about safety in Rainier Beach. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support the RBCEP's work to join residents and existing organizations to enhance, expand, and/or develop programs and activities that ensure a safe and secure community. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use School Emphasis Officers (SEOs) to focus on violence prevention and intervention in collaboration with all schools including Seattle Public Schools, to address gang resistance, violence prevention education and training, truancy and suspension reduction. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Create positive bridges Between SPD and Rainier Beach youth by engaging them in the programs and activities arising from the Youth Violence Prevention Initiative, the Youth Police Academy, and the Explorers Program. 	
F. Parks & Open Spaces	
<p>Discussion</p> <p>Public parks and open space are significant assets for Rainier Beach. People of all ages use Seattle Parks' community center, public parks and shorelines on a regular basis. Therefore, many would like to improve park programs for all users, especially for youth and teens. Community members would also like to have improvements made to Beer Sheva Park. Connectivity between public parks is also an important consideration.</p>	<p>Parks provide no-cost opportunities for physical activity for people of all ages and abilities. Parks also improve environmental quality by filtering air and water, provide opportunities for rest and relaxation, and increase interaction between neighbors. Having a park located within ¼ mile increases park usage, especially among children and the elderly. Children who have outdoor places to play are more likely to exercise regularly and face lower risks for diabetes, obesity, and asthma.</p>
<p>Goals</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Connected Parks and opens space that serve the community A community with a variety of parks and open spaces, civic facilities, waterfront access, and a trail system that promotes the existing open space sites, and the enjoyment of new public spaces. 	
Strategies	

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explore partnerships to increase park programming for all ages. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improve access to programs and activities for youth and teens, striving to fund a Teen Center similar to the Garfield Teen Life Center. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improve Beer Sheva to serve the needs of Rainier Beach residents. Seek funds and partnerships to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improve park furnishings in Beer Sheva, such as tables, benches and barbeques. Reduce boat trailer parking in Beer Sheva by using the High School's parking lot in the summer, discouraging overnight parking. Improve pedestrian entrance from S Henderson St., with connection to existing walkway, and connect Beer Sheva to the former Atlantic City Nursery site and Pritchard Beach as envisioned in the Rainier Beach Urban Farm and Wetland Preservation plan. Add a swimming float off of Beer Sheva and/or create "boat free" days where residents can park and swim off the boat launch piers. 	
G. Rainier Beach Urban Farm and Wetlands Preservation Project & Healthy Food Access	
<p>Discussion</p> <p>Access to healthy food is important to the Rainier Beach community. All resident in the urban village are within ½ mile of a supermarket that accepts SNAP (food stamp) benefits and provides healthy food. There are also smaller ethnic markets that provide culturally appropriate food. The weekly Columbia City farmers market is a short 2.5 mile bus or bike ride away. Efforts are underway to develop a P-Patch in the Rainier Beach, and a new urban farm and additional community garden under development. Rainier Beach has a higher density of fast food restaurants than the city overall. Many Rainier Beach residents, however, would like to see more and healthier food shopping options.</p> <p>As Rainier Beach grows and expands its commercial sector, emphasis should be placed on attracting full service, rather than fast food restaurants, particularly given the number of schools in the urban village. A great opportunity for growing and learning about organic, local food can now be realized with Rainier Beach Urban Farm and Wetland Preservation project at the former Parks and Recreation Atlantic City Nursery site.</p>	<p>Consuming the recommended level of fruits and vegetables is associated with lower rates of many chronic conditions. People who have access to healthy, culturally appropriate foods at an affordable price are more likely to consume them at higher levels.</p> <p>While community gardens rarely provide all of the produce a family needs for the year, they benefit gardeners through increased physical activity and fruit and vegetable consumption. They also bring neighbors together, reduce social isolation, and build community cohesion and empowerment.</p> <p>People who live near many fast-food restaurants and convenience stores have a higher prevalence of obesity and diabetes compared to people who live near grocery stores and fresh produce vendors. Students with fast food restaurants within ½ mile of their schools have been found to eat fewer fruits and vegetables, consume more soda, and have higher rates of being overweight compared to students who do not have fast-food restaurants within ½ mile of their schools.</p>
Goals	

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ready access to healthy food. 	
Strategies	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support implementation of the Rainier Beach Urban Farm and Wetlands Preservation project. Leverage each physical improvement with other actions and programs that will link the project site to the larger community. Elements include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <u>Organic Food Production and Distribution</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Connect the Urban Farm to restaurants. Build urban farming practices such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A Micro Farm Incubator that helps individuals and families become financially independent, apply their experience to farming and other related businesses, and increase farmland and access to healthy local food. Supportive relationships with organizations like SHA and Solid Ground <u>Nutrition Education</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Connect the Urban Farm and Wetland Preservation project to programs at the schools. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Extend the Seattle Public Schools initiative to enhance its relationships with local farmers and source local fruits and vegetables. Consider lessons from Jamie Oliver's "Feed Me Better" campaign to get decent food into Britain's schools. Create ties to the Southshore K-8 Learning Garden Connect the Urban Farm and Wetland Preservation project to the Rainier Beach Community Center. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coordinate with Parks Summer Teen Program (STEP) <u>Composting and Wetlands management</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a community-based wetland preservation program Provide on-site Master Composter/Soil Builder training 	 <p>Atlantic City Nursery Concept Plan</p> <p>Legend:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> FARM WETLAND SHARED VEHICLE AND PEOPLE ACCESS WALKING PATH <p>Scale: 0 40 80 120 160 200</p> <p>North Arrow</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Build collaboration among urban foods groups such as Rainier Beach Urban Farm, Tilth, Seattle Community Farm, Rainier Beach Learning Garden, and Rainier Valley Eats (http://www.rainiervalleyeats.org/), in order to maximize access to locally grown food and education about healthy food. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use programs such as "Healthy Foods Here" to increase availability of healthy foods in stores and restaurants throughout the neighborhood. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Create a farmers' market or an alternative locally grown food outlet to serve Rainier Beach. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase other community opportunities to grow food such as P- 	

Section	Side Bar and/or Graphics
Patches.	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Supporting a community kitchen for community gathering, food processing & production, and small business development.	